

In the Specification:

Please amend paragraphs [00016], [00017] of the specification as follows:

[00016] Figure 1 is a perspective drawing of a hoist constructed in accordance with the present invention; [[and]]

[00017] Figures 2 and 3 are simplified diagrams illustrating the geometric relationships of a load positioning operation[.]] ; and

After paragraph [0017], please insert the following paragraph:

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a second embodiment of a hoist constructed in accordance with the invention.

Please amend paragraphs [0008], [0020], and [0030] of the specification as follows:

[0008] One system for positioning a load includes a plurality of hydraulic cylinders attached by cables to a crane or other lift mechanism. The hydraulic cylinders are manually controlled to adjust the position of the load. Such manual systems require multiple jogging operations that can induce oscillations. Moreover, the position of only one cylinder [[it]] is typically changed at a time. This situation can cause the load to become unbalanced.

[0020] Referring now to the drawings wherein like reference numbers correspond to similar components throughout the several views and, specifically, referring to Figure 1, the present invention shall be described in the context of a synchronized hoist 10. The synchronized hoist 10 includes a plurality of hoist cylinders 15 coupled hydraulically and electrically to a hoist controller 20. The synchronized hoist 10 is suspended from a hook 25 coupled to a cable 30 extending from a crane 35 or other lifting device. Each hoist cylinder 15 has an associated extension cable 37 coupling it to the hook 25 providing a common center point. The hoist cylinders 15 are coupled to a load 40 at lifting points 45. Each hoist cylinder 15 is coupled to the hoist controller 20 through hydraulic hoses 50 and a sensor cable 55. For ease of illustration,

only the hoses 50 and cable 55 for a single hoist cylinder 15 are numbered. Although four hoist cylinders 15 are illustrated, the application of the present invention is not limited to any particular number of cylinders. For example, two-point, three-point, six-point, *etc.*, configurations may be used. The routing of the hoses 50 and cables 55 illustrated is provided for illustrative purposes to show the connections between the components, and not intended to represent an actual routing. In an actual implementation, bundles or other management techniques may be used to route the hoses 50 and cables 55, and some cables 55 may be shared.

[0030] The hoist controller 20 may use load information from the sensors 60 and the position information from the hoist cylinders 15 to determine the center of gravity of the load 40. The loading and position information may be resolved into force vectors that allow the characterization of the load 40. The center of gravity information may be used by the hoist controller 20 in determining the adjustments for the hoist cylinders 15 necessary to position the load 40.